

What if I don't think I'm the father?

As soon as you are served with legal papers that claim you are the father of a child, contact the local child support agency handling your case. The local child support agency may be able to help you set up free or low-cost testing. **Do not ignore this document.** If you wait longer than 30 days, the court **will** automatically establish you as the legal father. You may be required to provide medical support and pay child support in an amount set by the court.



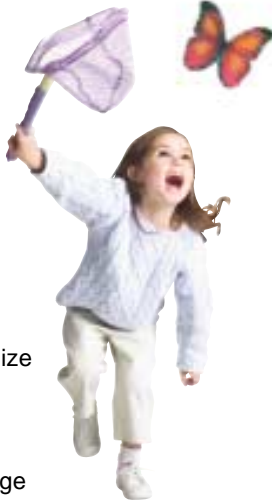
What if I don't agree with the amount of child support?

You might be able to change the amount of support you have to pay if you give the local child support agency new information that changes any of the circumstances listed below (see "What should I do now?"). You can also go to court to seek a judge's decision.

What should I do now?

Carefully read and respond to all paperwork sent to you. Contact the local child support agency if you have any questions or concerns. Pay your support in full and on time. You may wish to seek private legal advice. Keep accurate records of payments. This will help if you have a question concerning your case. Let the local child support agency know of any change that could affect your case. These changes may include:

- Custody and visitation
- Income
- Employment
- Worker's compensation
- Disability status
- Address
- Marital status
- Changes to your family size
- Jail or prison
- Child care
- Health insurance coverage



Providing this information may benefit you and could affect the amount you are expected to pay.

What happens if I don't pay?

There are serious things that can happen for not paying court-ordered child support.

- Interest will be charged on your unpaid balance at a rate of 10% per year.
- Your driver license and professional license can be suspended.
- Unpaid child support is reported to credit bureaus.
- Your tax refunds can be taken.
- Liens will be put on your property and bank accounts.
- Your passport can be denied.

Additional enforcement actions can be taken.



Supporting California's Children

Information for the Noncustodial Parent



Who are we?

The local child support agency provides services at no cost to parents, guardians and caretakers of minor children, regardless of marital status, income, or if the parents are receiving public assistance.



What we do:

- Locate a parent.
- Establish paternity (child's father).
- Establish, change, and enforce child support orders.
- Establish, change, and enforce an order for health insurance coverage.
- Collect and distribute child and spousal support payments.



Financial support and parental involvement determines what a child has in life, what that child can do, and who that child will become.

What should I expect?

You will be served (given) legal papers concerning your case. The Family Law Facilitator provides free legal assistance and is not part of the local child support agency. The facilitator can help you if you have questions about the paperwork. If you do not think you are the father of the child, the local child support agency can get you free or low-cost testing to determine if you are the father. Once paternity is established, a child support order will be obtained.

The amount of child support is set using state guidelines that consider each parent's income and other information like the amount of time each parent spends with the child. Special needs of the child are also considered.

You may be required to pay child support through the local child support agency handling your case as long as the case is open. Your employer will be required to withhold child support payments from your paychecks.

Who is the noncustodial parent?

A noncustodial parent is the parent without primary physical custody of his or her children. The Department of Child Support Services recognizes that this term may cause concern when a noncustodial parent is actively involved, personally and financially, in his or her child's life. This term is used to distinguish the person who pays child support from the person who receives it.

Why do I have a case?

A case is opened for any parent, caretaker or guardian who requests our services. By law, if the child(ren) receives public assistance, a case is opened automatically.

Do I have to go to court?

You have the right to have your case heard in court. However, you may be able to settle your case out of court by meeting with someone at the local child support agency.

Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor

State of California

Kimberly Belshé, Secretary

California Health and Human Services Agency

Greta Wallace, Director

Department of Child Support Services

1-866-249-0773 (toll free)
www.childsup.ca.gov

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